



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Volume 55 Number 10

<http://www.phil-mont.org>

October 2005



W3VVS

--AM--

THEN...
...and now

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The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for \$10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Net Schedules

- **2 Meter/ 70cm Net**.....at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
- **10-on-10 Net**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
- **75 meter Net**at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at

The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill

801 Ridge Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA 19444-1799

All visitors are welcome!

License Examinations

are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at

Northeast High School,

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA

Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M.**

Sharp! Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations

W3QV Club Repeater - Trustee: W3BBB

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ±444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L

W3AA at Northeast High School -Trustee: WU3I

Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA

W3EM - Field Day/special event station Trustee: W3VVS

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Committees

Archives: NG3P

Audit: NS3K

Awards: open

Blurb folding:

WB3KOJ & WB3KOH

Directory:WB3KOJ

DX: N3MT

Emerg.Coop.: K3HWE

Field Day: KE3QB

Internet: K3XS

Membership: N3XKE

Net Control: KB3IV

Publicity: W3RM

Program: Club VP

Public Service: KE3QB

Refreshments: W3AOK

Repeater: W3BBB

Skywarn: WX3PHI

Sunshine: N3GLU

Youth: N3MT

TVI: W3VVS

VE Program: ND3Q

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

Welcome: K3CJ.

W3VVS AM ...on the air once again

My father Paul W3VVS is finishing re-furbishing his late 1940's homebrew AM transmitter. Hopefully we will hear him on 75 meters within a couple weeks.

The transmitter is a pair of 812H's push-pull in the r.f. deck, driven by an 807 crystal controlled exciter deck. Pair of 807's in modulator deck and a power supply deck.

So began a discussion started by our own Tom Bolander WA3KLR, on "the AM Forum" at AMFONE, ("your online guide to to AM and vintage radio") <http://amfone.net>

Tom graciously drew your editor's attention to the article and suggested it might make a good piece for the Blurb, and we heartily agreed!

Let's let Tom tell the story his way...

I guess I will make an old-time radio serial out of this topic. ...

Tonight's episode – *The Shack Overview.*

By the early 1950's my father had 3 home-brew HF transmitter racks in his shack on the second floor of our "Cape Cod" in the northern suburbs of Philadelphia. When my twin brother and I were teenagers about 1968, my father moved the ham shack to the basement (where it resides today) so that my brother could have his own room. Fred moved into the old ham shack and promptly painted it hyellow.

Anyhow, the original shack in the second floor had a workbench area in addition to the operating area. There was a 3 ½ foot rack cabinet immediately to the right of the operating desk and a 3 ½ foot rack cabinet immediately to the left of the operating desk. To the left of that rack cabinet was a 2 ½ foot rack cabinet with a 160 meter 90 Watt AM transmitter. All 3 rack cabinets are on castors. (I'll see if I can dig up a good photo.)

The 160 meter rack (2 ½ foot) consisted of an r.f. deck using an 811 or 812 with a 6AG7 crystal oscillator/driver, a modulator deck using a pair of 6L6s, and a power supply deck. This rack of equipment was given away to a boy scout group mentored by one of our radio club members when the shack was moved to the basement. The modulator deck actually returned a few years ago, somewhat rusty.

The 3 ½ foot rack cabinet just to the left of the operating desk was the

big HF AM rig, 300 Watts input. The r.f. deck is a pair of 812H's in push-pull. The 812H was solely made by United Electronics Company (UEC) of Newark, NJ. The plug-in final tank coils are war-surplus BC-610 spares that are modified. The final is criss-cross neutralized. The driver coil is the plug-in B&W JVL series.

The plate input power is 1500 Volts at 200 milliamperes.

In those days, the final r.f. deck was driven by an 815 buffer deck driven by a Meissner Model EX Signal Shifter (VFO). We don't know what happened to the buffer deck! Originally, my father had an earlier model Signal Shifter which used a 6L6. This earlier model Signal Shifter drove the final by itself o.k. When my father upgraded to the new Model EX instead of the earlier model, he found that the EX put out LESS power, even though it used an 807 instead of a 6L6! Hence the 815 buffer deck was added.





A rear view of the 812H rack cabinet just before refurbishing began in February 2005

The EX was the last in the line of the Signal Shifters, but by far the most handsome of the series, in my opinion, with its brushed aluminum front panel and magic eye tube. The EX sat at the left end of the operating desk.

The push-pull 807 modulator deck design is from a 1940's ARRL handbook.

The power supply deck and the modulator decks again use United Electric sole parts; Z-225 mercury rectifiers. They are electrically similar to 866A's, but are shorter with the T14 bulb. This helps to keep the panel height down.

The high voltage transformer, filter chokes and oil filter capacitors were all war surplus.

The Meissner EX Signal Shifter was sold off, probably when my father bought a Ranger II in 1967 (which

he still runs). I don't know if he expected to ever drive the final with the Ranger, but perhaps he felt he would never run the 812H rig again. The Ranger then sat at the left end of the operating desk instead of the Signal Shifter. This was all well and good for me for when I became a JN in 1968. All I needed to do was order some 75, 40 and 15 meter novice crystals for the Ranger and plug them in. I still have those crystals.

To the right of the operating desk was a 3 ½ foot rack cabinet with a 50 Watt 10 meter AM transmitter. The 10 meter r.f. deck has a 6F6 crystal oscillator, 6L6 buffer/multiplier, and 807 final with a 6L6 keyer tube. All coils are plug-in. This deck is now the exciter deck for the 812H rack refurbishment.

The 10 meter rack cabinet also had a homebrew 6 meter AM r.f. deck. The final used a 6146. This deck

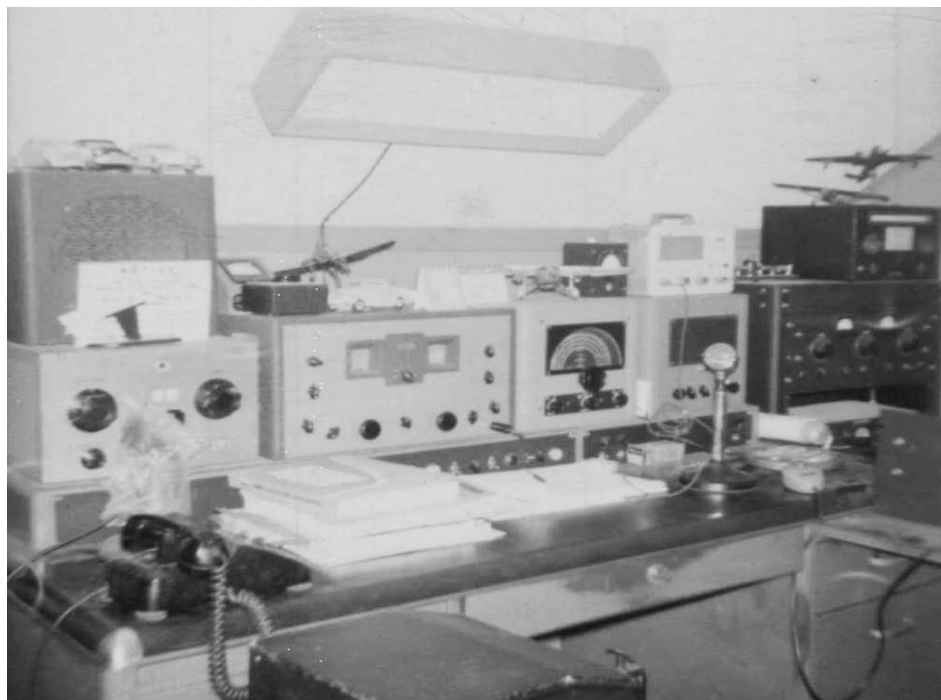
was built with horizontal orientation. The panel height was only 3 ½ inches.

There was a push-pull 6L6 modulator deck and a power supply deck also to this rack cabinet. The rack was primarily used on our radio club frequency of 29.493 MHz. AM. The 6 meter deck was hardly ever used.

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club established 29.493 MHz. as their "Channel 1" frequency due to the war surplus FT-243 crystals on 7373.333 kHz. Phil-Mont was active on this frequency from 1949 until the migration to a 2 meter FM repeater on 147.030 MHz. in the early 1970's. For a period from about 1968 until the 2 meter repeater was put in service, the club had a 10 meter AM repeater, split-site, about 1 mile apart in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia. The repeater work has been mostly the sole efforts of Jim Spencer W3BBB, to this day.

After the shack was moved to the basement, and the 10 meter 50 Watt AM transmitter was not in use any more, I decided one day to try to fire up the 812H rig on 29.493 MHz. for kicks; 200 Watts AM out. This was circa 1970. I wasn't on the air more than a couple minutes and the next door neighbor Millie called on the phone to complain about interference on her telephone. That was the last time the 812H rig was on the air.

I brought the other remaining empty 3 ½ foot rack cabinet to my house when I moved here in 1990. I hope to build up a Class E legal limit AM transmitter in it.



Next episode – *The Operating Desk/Receivers*

The operating desk acquired in the early 1950's has a bit of broadcast history with it. Two neighborhood radio hams who were broadcast engineers at WIBG-AM, George Hooper and Lester Sacks (both SKs now), gave to my father the old engineering console from the broadcast transmitter site in Flourtown, PA, which is just west of the northwestern border of Philadelphia. (WIBG started out in Glenside, Pa. off of Keswick Avenue as a small religious station - Why I Believe God. In the baby boom era of the 1960's, WIBG was the #1 rock music station in the Philadelphia market, transmitting on 990 kHz. It was affectionately known as "Wibbage". By the early 1980's, this station reverted to Christian music, WZZD as I recall. Now, 990 is a talk radio station.)

The desk is a large, heavy metal office desk with a thick black rubber top. The sloping panels above the desktop went to another ham friend, Jim Spencer, who in turn built a short height wooden equipment shelf to sit on the desk

top. The wooden shelf is designed to take (3) 3 ½ inch rack panels side by side on the front face.

As I recall, the left-hand rack panel and right-hand panels were identical. They contained volume and squelch pots, switches and pilot lamps controlling crystal-controlled monitor receivers. The left panel went to a Link 11-UF n.b.f.m. receiver on the local township police frequency of 39.18 MHz. The right panel went to the 10 meter AM receiver on 29.493 MHz. The 10 meter AM receiver and Link f.m. police receiver sat on a shelf under the desk.

The center panel has a symmetrical lay-out of 2 main power switches, two classic telephone lever switches, and 4 pilot lamp assemblies. Two lamps are standby power indicators which come on when the power switch is up. The other two lamps are transmit indicators which light



up when the lever switches are thrown. The left-hand controls are for the 812H rig to the left of the desk. The right-hand controls are for the 10 meter AM transmitter to the right of the desk

If either lever switch was thrown, up to 4 receivers were muted.

The muted receivers were:

- the main HF receiver, a Hammarlund HQ-129X purchased new in 1946
- a home-brew 10 meter AM crystal-controlled, squelched receiver
- a 10, 6 and 2 meter AM and FM receiver using a RME VHF-152 tunable converter feeding a homebrew i.f. receiver with AM and FM modes. The i.f. receiver was built in a cabinet that matched the VHF-152 cabinet.

So occupying the top of the shelf on the operating desk were, from left to right, the Meissner Signal Shifter (or later a Ranger II), the HQ-129X, and the RME 10, 6, and 2 meter receiver cabinets.

The 10 meter AM receiver and the Link police receivers were on a time-clock that powered the receivers from about 4:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. every day. These two receivers also fed several remote speakers in the house.

About 1969, the HQ-129X receiver was sold after acquiring a new-in-the-box, never used National NC-183D.

The photo below of the operating desk was taken today, August 16, 2005:

On the operating desk shelf is an RME69, the NC-183D and the Ranger II. The 812H rig will be used with the NC-183D receiver. The 812H rig will be controlled by the right-hand set of switches of the center control panel.

Also, the left-hand control panel has been replaced to fill in the spot. The current 3 ½ inch panel is from the old 6 meter Link f.m. receiver that was on 52.525 MHz. The left-hand meter movement is

a zero center meter connected to the discriminator. This showed the received signal's frequency relative to the center of the receiver channel. The right-hand meter was connected to the 1st limiter grid. This meter showed the relative received signal strength.

August 21, 2005,:The inaugural transmissions of W3VVS' refurbished 300 Watt 812H rig went very well today on the AWA net, 3837 kHz. ...

New Rules of Election

At its September 7th. meeting, the Board of Directors formally revised the PMRC "Rules of Election" (see minutes).

Actually, the "new" rules serve only to codify the election process which Phil-Mont has been following in recent years, since the last-published rules, dating back to the early 90's, spoke of voting for complete "slates" of officers competing for election.

The newly-stated rules are effective September 7, 2005.

Rules of Election

Adopted by the Board of Directors, and effective September 7, 2005.

The Rules are not part of the By-laws. They are Procedural Rules adopted by the Board of directors in accordance with the by-laws, Article 12, Section 1.

1: A Nominating Committee



Chairperson shall be appointed by the President at or prior to the September Directors' Meeting. The Chair may appoint additional members selected from the General Membership.

2: Duties of the Nominating Committee shall include obtaining at least one nominee for each office up for election. Nominees must have been a member in good standing for at least one year prior to the Annual Meeting, and shall have indicated their willingness to serve, if elected. Nominations are to be announced at a General Meeting at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time. Nominations will be closed at the end of this General Meeting. No member of the Nominating Committee may be included in the list of nominees unless a Petition of Nomination, signed by at least ten active members, has been received and approved by the Board prior to the close of nominations. No individual's name shall appear more than once on the entire ballot. Whenever possible, the list of candidates shall be published in the December issue of the *Blurb*.

3: At the close of nominations, the President shall appoint a Board of Elections consisting of a Chairperson (Judge of Elections) and two members. It shall be the function of this Board to supervise the election process at the Annual Meeting, to carry out the Bylaws and the Rule of Election, and to resolve any election problems not covered by the said Rules.

4: Voting at the Annual Meeting shall be by written ballot. Absentee

ballots are allowed, and must be received by the Judge of Elections (only) by email or telephone communications, in which case such ballot shall be validated individually by the Judge of Elections through communication with the voting member, and the membership status of the voter verified. Each paid-up member is entitled to vote.

5: Winners must be elected by a simple majority of those voting. Balloting must continue, eliminating those with the lowest count, until a simple majority is reached. Absentee ballots for any candidate not eliminated in this process must be included. Should there be only one candidate for any office, the Secretary shall be instructed to cast a single vote to elect the unopposed candidate.

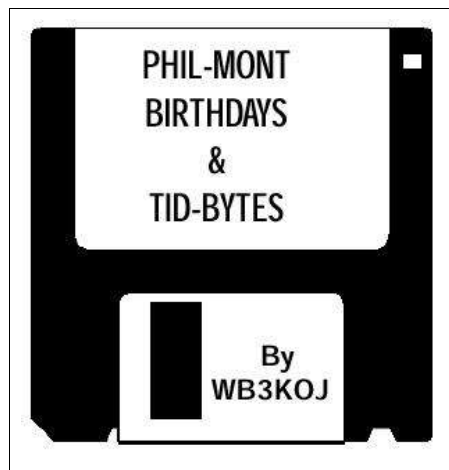
6: Electioneering is encouraged, with The Official Association Publication (The *Blurb*) carrying profiles of the candidates when timely submitted to the editor prior to the closing date for the December issue. Each candidate shall also be allowed five minutes of time preceding the vote for campaign speeches, if requested.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 7, 2005

The September meeting of the Board of Directors was held on the 7th. at WRDV, Hatboro, hosted by Fred, WA3KIO.

President Al Tribble, W3STW,



Membership Stats

at press time PMRC. has:
 97 full paid members
 9 family members
 1 youth members
 0 honorary members
 0 pending members

October Birthdays

01 Ed Masarsky - KB3IV
 Charlie Phelps - N3OOV
 02 Susan DeCicco (XYL KE3QB)
 Donna Stevenson (XYL K3HWE)
 03 David Colucci - KB3HOE
 04 Joe Elmaleh - K3HIJ
 06 Joan Freer (XYL W3YLT)
 10 Patricia DiNardi - (XYL N3XKE)
 11 Charlye Johnson, Jr. - K3CJ
 14 Bill Mescanti, Jr. - WB3KUR
 21 Dan Greene - K3HES
 23 Ed Rykaczewski - W3ALM
 31 Dick Klein - W3WXC

presided, with the following additional directors present and voting: W3BBB, WU3I, KB3IV, N3MT, W3RM, N3XKE and K3XS.

Treasurer W3RM presented a detailed statement of income and expenditures for eight months, January through August, and a line-item "actual vs. budget" comparison for board review. Income for the period included a cash contribution from the estate of Sam Kuncovich, N3QIE. Expenditures for the period were within budgeted amounts, and all obligations are current. Dick stressed the continuing need for Scholarship Fund contributions, as the club is funding two \$2,000 F.A.R. scholarships for 2006: the annual Haring, W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, and a 2006 scholarship in memory of Joann Hoch, N3FTC.

Jim, W3BBB, our long-standing Judge of Elections, presented for board approval a re-write of the Rules of Election, updating the former rules to reflect the current election process being followed in recent years.

After review and discussion, and upon motion, the revised Rules of Election were approved unanimously, and are effective September 7, 2005. The rules will be published in the October Blurb.

Al, W3STW, reported that our W3AA/W3YC program at Northeast High School will be getting underway again, now that school is open. Al will be presenting a "program introduction" to students next week. Al plans to offer Technician Class license instruction

again, if there is sufficient interest.

Applications for membership were received from Eugene Pressler, W3ZXV, and William Nicholson, W3KOC, whose profiles were published in the September Blurb. Upon motion, the directors voted unanimously to accept Gene and Bill as new Phil-Mont members.

Following routine committee reports, and discussion of program ideas for upcoming general meetings, upon motion the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV,
Secretary

General Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2005

The September PMRC General Meeting was held at The Masonic Village, Lafayette Hill, PA, on September 14, 2005. President Al Tribble convened the meeting at 7:55 p.m., and passed the microphone around for attendee introductions.

Dick, W3RM, reported on the satisfactory condition of the treasury, and also noted that new "Rules of Election" were adopted by the board at their September 7th. meeting. The new rules reflect the election procedures being followed in recent years, which



227th Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics

for September 8th, 2005

Six candidates took nine elements, and we had four upgrades and two new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads ND3Q, and the other participating VEs were :

Jim McCloskey NS3K
John P. Coup Jr. WA3BXH
Ra Heffernan N3FH
Gene DiNardi N3XKE

Upcoming Exam Sessions:
October 6, 2005, November 3, 2005

(See page 2 for details)

differ somewhat from those last published in the early 90's. Dick also reminded the membership that Phil-Mont will be underwriting two scholarships in 2006, the annual Haring, W3IIM, Memorial Scholarship, and a 2006 scholarship in memory of Joann Hoch, N3FTC. Both include \$2,000 grants-in-aid to young amateurs pursuing a college education. Continuing contributions to the club's Scholarship Fund, in cash or saleable equipment, are welcome.

The Board approved the applications of two new members: Eugene Pressler, W3ZXV, and William

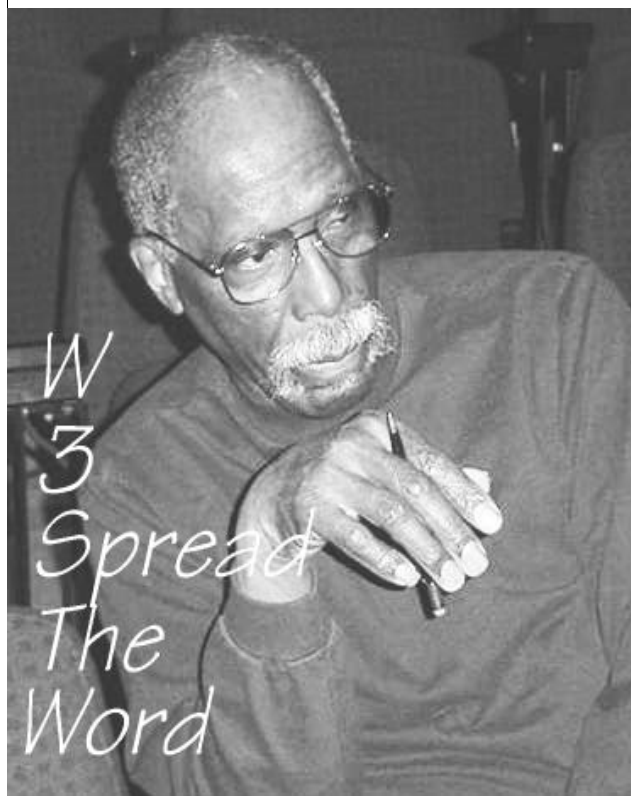


photo: WA3KIO

Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

Greetings; seems to me the favorite thing septuagenarians are doing these days is to downsize the ham shack then bail out of the existing QTH for another one that features a morel modest ham shack, antenna system (or none at all) in a serene environment. Well it doesn't take a lot of brain matter to realise that if I'm going to follow suit I'd better start mking some overtures about getting rid of the remotely controlled 55 foot tower (ham IV rotor and control box), Pro 67B and 17 foot 2m/70cm antennas mounted on the tower. No resonable offer (for equipment that is ten years old) from a active radio operator holding a valid FCC licensed will be refused, first come first served.

On another subject dear to my heart is the PMRC December Election of Officers and Directors. I have been told that there will be a real contest for the office of President this December. I will not roll over this year. I invite you to come to the remaining PMRC General meetings. Also the task of providing programs for the General Meetings needs to be spread over more than one person. Come prepared to give meaningful input at the remaing '05 General PMRC Meetings regarding these two subjects. "Spread The Word" 73.

Nichelson, W3KOC. Gene was present, and was welcomed to his first meeting as a member.

Committee Reports: Ed, KB3IV, reported that the club nets are operating smoothly. Steve, WU3I, stated that the Echolink repeater connection is down, but will be back in service ASAP. Al, W3STW, reported that the W3AA operation at Northeast High School is again under way, as school is back in session. Volunteer operators and visitors are needed. Maggie, K3XS, solicited material for the Blurb, and stated that the club website is being updated. Dusty, ND3Q, our VE coordinator, reported that the first Fall VE session on 9/8 went smoothly, with two of the examinees upgrading to Extra Class. Larry, K3HWE, our emergency coordinator, spoke on emergency preparedness of home stations, and also reported on the SATERN net operations on 14.265 in connection with the Katrina disaster. Carmen, KE3QB, stated that the MS-150 still needs additional operators for September 24-25. Contact W3WF if you can help.

Meeting Program: Fred Rice, WA3KIO, presented an interesting Power Point presentation on early radio "alternate power sources," and demonstrated several antique receivers powered by batteries and by vibrator power supplies.

There being no further business following Fred's program, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV,
Secretary



*What's going on
here?
See page 3, OM...*

Date	October 2005 with PMRC
Sat 01	
Sun 02	NCS: 2M:N3QV HF:N3QV
Mon 03	
Tue 04	
Wed 05	Board of Directors meets at WRDV
Thu 06	VE exams at Northeast HS – see page 2
Fri 07	
Sat 08	
Sun 09	NCS: 2M:WU3I HF:WA3KIO
Mon 10	Columbus Day
Tue 11	
Wed 12	PMRC General Meeting at Masonic Village – see page2
Thu 13	
Fri 14	
Sat 15	Sweetest Day
Sun 16	NCS: 2M:KB3IV HF:KB3IV
Mon 17	
Tue 18	
Wed 19	
Thu 20	
Fri 21	
Sat 22	
Sun 23	NCS: 2M:N3FH HF:W3STW
Mon 24	
Tue 25	
Wed 26	Mother-in-Law's Day
Thu 27	Navy Day
Fri 28	
Sat 29	
Sun 30	NCS: 2M: W3BBB 75M:W3BBB
Mon 31	Halloween

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
641 Kismet Road Philadelphia PA 19115

The Blue